

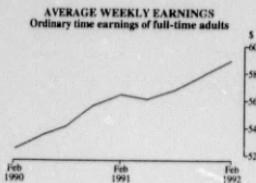
Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 25 June 1992

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Average weekly earnings increase



In the three months to February 1992 there was a 1.8 per cent increase in average weekly ordinary time earnings for full-time adult persons.

Final estimates show that these ordinary time earnings were \$589.20 in February, compared with \$578.80 in November 1991. The increase for full-time adult males was 2.1 per cent (to \$625.20) while full-time adult females showed an increase of 1.8 per cent (to \$523.90).

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, FEBRUARY 1992
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings

	Weekly earnings (\$)			Percentage change in 'Persons' from	
	Males	Females	Persons	November 1991	February 1992
New South Wales	652.60	538.10	612.60	3.1	5.5
Victoria	620.30	524.10	584.90	0.8	3.4
Queensland	575.10	481.70	542.30	0.0	3.2
South Australia	592.70	537.30	575.10	1.6	5.3
Western Australia	637.40	517.20	594.90	2.6	5.1
Tasmania	584.00	493.80	554.70	1.3	3.2
Northern Territory	658.30	534.10	606.70	1.8	5.7
Australian Capital Territory	714.50	594.50	664.50	1.7	5.3
<i>Australia</i>	<i>625.20</i>	<i>523.90</i>	<i>589.20</i>	<i>1.8</i>	<i>4.4</i>

Average weekly ordinary time earnings for the public sector for Australia showed a 2.0 per cent increase for full-time adult persons to \$628.00, up from \$615.80 in November 1991. The private sector showed an increase of 1.4 per cent to \$568.00, up from \$560.10 in November 1991.

Average weekly total earnings for full-time adult persons increased by 1.5 per cent to \$619.70 during the quarter, producing an increase of 3.7 per cent since February 1991.

The estimates were affected by the flow through of the April 1991 National Wage Case decision, annual salary reviews paid from January 1992 and changes in the composition of the wage and salary earner segment of the labour force.

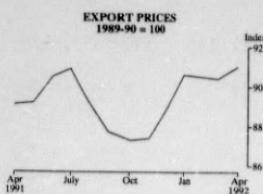
For further information, order the publication Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia (6302.0), or contact Tony Gilbert (06) 252 6658.

Export prices rise

Export prices rose by 0.7 per cent between March and April 1992, with about 40 per cent of the items in the index recording price increases.

The largest price rises were for wool and cereals, but the increases were partially offset by price falls for nearly half of the index items. The only significant decreases were for iron ore, meat and gold.

Continued ...



On an annual basis, export prices rose by 2.1 per cent between April 1991 and April 1992.

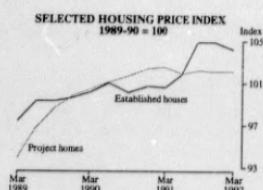
EXPORT PRICES, APRIL 1992

Percentage change

Commodity	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Wool and cotton fibres	6.2	32.1
Vegetable products	3.7	30.0
Live animals and animal products	-0.9	5.6
Prepared food stuffs	0.3	1.2
Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	-0.1	0.8
Gold, diamonds and coin	-1.7	-2.9
Mineral products	-0.6	-3.0
Machinery and appliances	-0.2	-3.4
Products of chemicals or allied industries	-0.8	-9.6
Base metals	0.3	-10.8
All exports	0.7	2.1

For further information, order the publication Export Price Index, Australia (6405.0), or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.

House prices: Melbourne out of step



The Australian index for established house prices fell by 0.6 per cent in the March quarter 1992, despite rises in seven of the eight capital cities. The decrease of 4.5 per cent in the Melbourne index was sufficient to offset the rises in the other capitals. The largest increases occurred in Brisbane and Adelaide (2.7%), while Sydney experienced the smallest rise (0.1%).

Project home prices remained static, with no change in the index for Australia. Quarterly movements ranged from a 0.5 per cent decrease in Melbourne to an increase of 1.5 per cent in Canberra.

HOUSING PRICES, MARCH QUARTER 1992

Percentage change

	Established houses		Project homes	
	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Sydney	0.1	4.2	0.2	-0.1
Melbourne	-4.5	-0.5	-0.5	-2.0
Brisbane	2.7	12.1	0.1	0.5
Adelaide	2.7	-1.8	-0.3	0.2
Perth	0.5	-0.1	0.8	-0.8
Hobart	0.4	6.3	1.1	2.8
Darwin	2.2	5.6	0.0	2.0
Canberra	1.3	15.4	1.5	12.3
Weighted average of eight capital cities	-0.6	3.6	0.0	-0.3

For further information, order the publication House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (6416.0), or contact Ian Buchanan on (06) 252 5754.

Manufacturing prices in April

The price indexes for materials used in manufacturing and for articles produced rose slightly between March and April 1992.

Materials prices up 0.4%

The price index of materials used in manufacturing industries increased by 0.4 per cent between March and April 1992; prices of home produced materials rose by 1.0 per cent, while imported materials fell by 0.6 per cent. Over the year to April, prices of manufacturing materials increased by 2.5 per cent, only the second annual increase since July 1991.

The increase in home produced materials was caused mainly by higher prices for metal ores and concentrates and crude petroleum. The decrease in imported materials was caused by lower prices for chemicals and chemical based materials.

PRICES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING, APRIL 1992
Percentage change

Source of material	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Imported	-0.6	0.7
Home produced	1.0	3.5
All manufacturing	0.4	2.5

Prices of articles produced up 0.2%

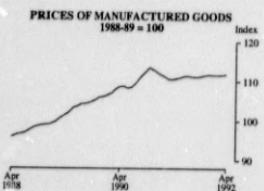
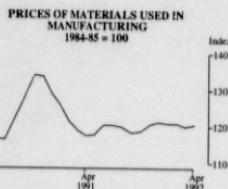
The price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry rose 0.2 per cent in April 1992. On an annual basis the index rose 1.2 per cent between April 1991 and April 1992.

The increase was due to higher prices for about 40 per cent of the items in the index. The main contribution came from higher prices for processed seafoods and refined petroleum products. These increases were partially offset by price falls for about one-third of the items in the index; the main contributor was frozen meat.

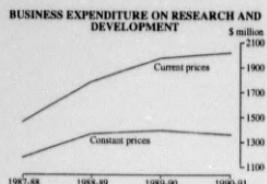
PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, APRIL 1992
Percentage change

Manufacturing sector	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Food and beverages	0.4	3.6
Petroleum products	1.3	2.7
Clothing and footwear	-0.1	1.4
Transport equipment	-0.1	1.3
Fabricated metal products	0.6	0.3
Other industrial machinery	0.1	-0.5
Chemical products	0.0	-1.9
Basic metal products	-0.4	-4.6
Total manufacturing	0.2	1.2

For further information order the publications Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia (6411.0) and Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia (6412.0), or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348 or Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.



Business R&D investment lags



BUSINESS EXPENDITURE ON R&D
1990-91

OECD country	Ratio to GDP
Switzerland	2.14
Japan	2.08
Germany	2.07
United States	1.90
Sweden	1.83
United Kingdom	1.48
Finland	1.17
Denmark	0.84
Italy	0.79
Canada	0.75
Australia	0.53
Spain	0.49
Ireland	0.47

Business expenditure on research and development (R&D) was estimated to be \$2,017 million in 1990-91, an increase of 2 per cent at current prices over the two year period from 1989-90. However in constant price terms (average 1984-85 prices) the estimated commitment by businesses to R&D decreased by 2 per cent since 1989-90 to \$1,359 million.

Australia has a relatively low ratio of business expenditure on R&D to gross domestic product (GDP) when compared with the other Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries shown in the table at left.

Most Australian R&D is directed towards manufactured products. Computer software is the growth area, showing a 25 per cent increase over the two years from 1988-89 to 1990-91. It now accounts for 24 per cent of total R&D expenditure.

The next largest product areas are telecommunications and broadcasting equipment (10% of the total) and motor vehicles and parts (8% of the total), their positions having reversed since 1988-89.

BUSINESS EXPENDITURE ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, 1990-91
\$ million

Product	1986-87	1988-89	1990-91
Computer software	216	383	477
Telecommunications and broadcasting equipment	133	150	201
Motor vehicles and parts	126	159	154
Pharmaceutical products	42	81	86
Basic iron and steel	45	60	65
Other	718	952	1,035
Total	1,280	1,784	2,017

For further information, order the publication Research and Experimental Development: Business Enterprises, Australia (8104.0), or contact John Ovington on (06) 252 5627.

Major labour reference updated

An overview of the wealth of labour statistics produced by the ABS is provided in the latest edition of *Labour Statistics, Australia*, which has just been released.

International comparisons of the more important series are included among a wide range of labour market information. Statistics on employment, unemployment, wages, hours of work and industrial disputes are presented as time series. Selected features highlight the more significant elements and trends.

For example, participation rates for Australia increased by 2.3 percentage points from 1980 to 1990. Larger increases were experienced by the USA (5.1 percentage points), New Zealand (4.8 percentage points) and the UK (3.7 percentage points). Over the same period, the participation rates for Japan and Sweden remained fairly steady, experiencing rises of only 0.1 and 0.6 percentage points respectively.

Continued ...

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
- by facsimile
- electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

ABS Central Office

PO BOX 10
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 (06) 253 1404

ABS State Offices

NSW (02) 268 4611
 Vic. (03) 615 7000
 Qld (07) 222 6351
 WA (09) 323 5140
 SA (08) 237 7100
 Tas. (002) 20 5800
 NT (089) 432 111

Other information featured for Australia covers underemployment, persons not in the labour force, award rates of pay, labour costs, employment benefits and expenditure on training.

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES
Per cent

Country	1980	1982	1984	1986	1988	1990
Australia	60.8	59.8	59.7	61.0	61.4	63.1
USA	60.6	60.9	61.3	62.1	63.0	65.7
Japan	63.3	63.4	63.4	62.8	62.6	63.4
UK	59.6	58.6	59.2	60.2	60.2	63.3
France	54.5	54.5	54.0	53.5	53.0	53.5
Italy	49.7	49.1	49.1	49.4	49.4	49.0
Canada	62.5	62.4	63.1	63.9	64.9	65.1
Sweden	64.6	64.5	63.6	63.9	64.5	65.2
NZ	56.5	56.6	55.7	64.7	62.4	61.3

For further information, order the publication *Labour Statistics, Australia* (6101.0), or contact Information Services (see *Inquiries* column at left).

All the week's releases: 17 to 23 June

General

Publications Advice, 19 June 1992 (1105.0; free)
 Publications Advice, 23 June 1992 (1105.0; free)
 Information Paper: Private Dwelling Structure Classification (PDSC), 1992 (1296.0; free) — new issue
 Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., June 1992 (1304.0; \$20.00)
 Statistics Weekly, 18 June 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)
 Time Series Service — Manual, March Qtr 1992 (1336.0; \$20.00)
 Economic Indicators, Qld, June 1992 (1307.3; \$6.50)
 Tasmanian Statistical Indicators, June 1992 (1303.6; \$9.50)
 Northern Territory Business Indicators, June 1992 (1307.7; \$5.00)

Demography

Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., 1991 (3404.0; \$19.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Exports and Imports by Country, March Qtr 1992 (5422.0; \$19.50)
 Lease Finance, Aust., April 1992 (5644.0; \$6.00)

Labour statistics and prices

Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Aust., December Qtr 1991 (6248.0; \$16.00)
 Information Paper: How Workers Get Their Training — Sample File on Magnetic Media, 1989 (6274.0; free) — new issue
 Average Weekly Earnings, States and Aust., February 1992 (6302.0; \$10.50)
 Export Price Index, Aust., April 1992 (6405.0; \$8.00)
 Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Aust., April 1992 (6411.0; \$10.50)
 Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Aust., April 1992 (6412.0; \$10.50)
 House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, March Qtr 1992 (6416.0; \$27.00)

Subscriptions

To subscribe to *Statistics Weekly* or any other ABS printed publication, phone the ABS Subscription Service toll-free on (008) 020608, or contact Information Services at any of the offices listed at left.

Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Rad Leovic
Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6104

Secondary industry and distribution

- Manufacturing Industry, Aust., 1990-91, Preliminary (8201.0; \$10.50)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Building Materials and Fittings, April 1992 (8361.0; \$8.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Transport Equipment, April 1992 (8363.0; \$6.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Energy Products, April 1992 (8368.0; \$6.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Wood and Wood Products, April 1992 (8369.0; \$6.00)
- Forest Products, Tas., March Qtr 1992 (8203.6; \$5.00)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 7 July 1992

June

- [25] Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia, May 1992 (6354.0; \$12.00)
- Import Price Index, Australia, April 1992 (6414.0; \$8.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Australia, May 1992, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)

- [26] Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, April 1992 (6407.0; \$10.50)
- Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, April 1992 (6408.0; \$8.00)
- Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, May 1992, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.50)

July

- [1] Balance of Payments, Australia, May 1992 (5301.0; \$16.00)
- Building Approvals, Australia, May 1992 (8731.0; \$13.00)

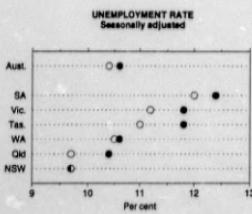
The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to

23 June 1992

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Dec. qtr 91)*	-25.6	-17.7	-10.8	-3.6	1.1	-51.4	n.a.	n.a.	-17.4
Retail turnover (Apr. 92) (trend estimate)	6.1	4.2	8.0	-0.4	9.3	4.3	n.a.	8.2	5.8
New motor vehicle registrations (Apr. 92)†	11.2	14.8	-19.7	-3.1	5.6	-6.3	-6.5	-13.9	2.1
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Apr. 92)	31.0	29.8	19.9	14.5	42.8	3.2	319.2	149.2	30.4
Value of total building work done (Dec. qtr 91)	-25.5	-25.4	4.4	-29.6	-12.9	3.4	4.3	3.4	-18.5
Employed persons (May 92)*	-1.2	-1.9	2.5	3.3	0.9	-3.3	6.8	0.9	0.7
Capital city consumer price index (Mar. qtr 92)	1.2	2.1	1.7	2.6	0.9	2.1	2.1	2.6	1.7
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Feb. 92)	5.5	3.4	3.2	5.3	5.1	3.2	5.7	5.3	4.4
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (Dec. qtr 91)	3.2	3.6	10.1	-2.6	8.3	3.6	2.8	2.9	5.1

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.



The latest ...

8

Key national indicators – consolidated to 23 June 1992

				Latest figure available	Percentage change (a) on		
		Period		Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production							
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984-85 prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 92		n.a.	64,762	0.6	0.8
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 92	4,944	5,565	-2.7	-21.3	
— 1984-85 prices	"		3,898	4,386	-2.3	-18.0	
Expected new capital expenditure	"	Three months to June 92	6,727	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Retail turnover — current prices	"	Apr. 92	7,729	8,040	2.9	9.5	
— 1984-85 prices	"	Mar. qtr 92	14,755	15,531	1.1	2.1	
New motor vehicle registrations	no.	Apr. 92	39,263	42,724	-12.6	2.1	
Dwelling unit approvals	"	Apr. 92	13,100	13,934	9.7	35.8	
Value of all building approvals	\$m	"	1,677	1,792	4.1	18.2	
Value of total building work done	"	Dec. qtr 91	5,977.4	5,675.6	-3.6	-18.5	
— current prices	"		3,846.5	3,652.3	-3.9	-16.8	
— 1984-85 prices	"	Mar. qtr 92	32,884	35,130	1.8	0.6	
Manufacturers' sales — current prices	"	"	22,814	24,284	1.1	-1.3	
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Three months to June 92	35,070	n.a.	n.a.	-2.0	
Labour							
Employed persons	'000	May 92	7,687.5	7,663.0	-0.1	-0.7	
Unemployment rate †	%	"	10.7	10.6	0.2	1.2	
Participation rate †	"	"	63.0	62.7	0.0	-0.6	
Job vacancies (e)	'000	Feb. 92	27.6	26.6	3.1	-4.5	
Average weekly overtime per employee (e)	hours	"	1.10	1.12	5.7	-6.3	
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1989-90 = 100.0	Mar. qtr 92	107.6	n.a.	0.0	1.7	
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	Apr. 92	120.5	n.a.	0.4	2.5	
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0	Apr. 92	111.8	n.a.	0.2	1.2	
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Mar. qtr 92	2,779	3,469	12.8	37.7	
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	Feb. 92	589.20	n.a.	1.8	4.4	
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	Mar. 92	7.55	n.a.	0.05	-4.05	
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	9.90	n.a.	-0.15	-1.50	
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise	\$m	Apr. 92	4,590	4,762	5.4	8.0	
Imports of merchandise	"	"	4,098	4,327	0.2	4.5	
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	492	435	116.4	62.9	
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	342	285	7025	850	
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-798	-897	9.6	-32.3	
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	Mar. qtr 92	n.a.	100.2	2.8	0.6	
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Mar. 92	148,124	n.a.	2.4	7.6	
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	199,312	n.a.	3.4	10.9	
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
\$US per \$A		Apr. 92	0.7627	n.a.	0.5	-2.2	
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	58.1	n.a.	0.3	-2.5	
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	June 91	17.3	n.a.	0.3	1.5	
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	Mar. 92	218	206	-1.6	16.2	

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that of imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 25 June 1992.

NOTES: * Not seasonally adjusted. ** Not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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